

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

SYNOD NOTES.—Continued.

The Synod expressed a very decided opinion in regard to the License Bill lately before the Provincial Parliament, and by a Memorial addressed to the Premier pointed out the peculiarly objectionable features. In moving the adoption of the memorial the Dean of Montreal in scathing and eloquent terms referred to the anomalies and marked injustice of the existing law, which though bad was if anything to be preferred to the proposed new bill. Another matter worth noting in this connection is the general organization of a Diocesan Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society: the officers appointed for the present year are: President, The Bishop; Clerical Vice-Presidents, Dean Carmichael and Archdeacon Lindsay; Lay Vice-President, Dr. Davidson, Q.C., 2nd do. Judge Armstrong; Secretary, Rev. J. A. Newnham; Treasurer, Mr. R. H. Buchanan; Council, Revs. J. G. Norton, D.D., J. G. Baylis, E. McManus, W. P. Chambers and J. E. Edgecombe, and Messrs. G. B. Capel, Henry Mudge, Walter Drake, Robt. Church and E. L. Bond.

A motion of a somewhat revolutionary and foolish character to the effect, that no legislation, matter or thing laid down or passed by the Provincial Synod of Canada, shall have any force or effect within this Diocese, or upon any member of the Church therein, until and unless the same shall have first been expressly and specially passed and determined by the Synod of this Diocese appeared upon the agenda paper. At the time that it was called in the order of proceedings the mover was absent; but another member of Synod, in his behalf, asked that it should stand over as a notice of motion for next year; this was objected to as it was claimed that the matter was entirely "out of order" and ultra vires, and should not be received at all. Some little discussion followed, as to whether the motion should appear or not, or stand as a notice for next year; but ultimately the motion dropped, and the House proceeded to the next order of business. Unfortunately the Gazette reported next morning that the motion had been adopted—although it had not even been discussed; and as the matter was of importance to the whole Church and would, so reported, have placed the Diocese in an unfortunate aspect, several members pointed out the mistake and strongly urged that some provision should be made for reporting accurately the proceedings of Synod. This seems to have aroused the ire of the secular press, and has called forth bitter and most unwarranted attacks upon and misrepresentations of the statements of some of the members of Synod (particularly Canon Davidson). Though there may be grave difficulties in the way of having an official reporter, they are not insuperable, and the credit of the Church would seem to require action in this direction.

Some little discussion took place on the question of forms for enregistering Acts of civil status, and the old charge that the clergy were as a body less particular in keeping these registers than the Romish clergy was made; but this was denied by leading members who had had opportunities of seeing something of all registers of both Protestant and Roman ministers.

The following has been adopted by Synod, and if obeyed and acted upon must bear good results:

"That it be made part of the instruction to every clergyman appointed to the care of souls, that he shall familiarize himself with the School law of the province of Quebec, and shall visit periodically the schools in his parish or mission, and exercise, so far as allowed by law, the privilege of a religious instructor.

That the examiners of schools be instructed to select a book of church history, to be used as a basis of instruction by the clergy in all schools of their charges, at such times as the law may allow them."

PERSONAL.—Dean Carmichael and Canon Empson, have gone on a tour of inspection to British Columbia. It is to be hoped that they will bring back a good report of this far off land.

Canon Ellegood, Rector of St. James the Apostle, is now in England.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese is enjoying a well-earned rest at one of the watering places on the Lower St. Lawrence.

Archdeacon Evans and family are at Tadousac.

The Rev. N. P. Yates, B.A., has, it is said, been appointed to the new office lately created by the Governors of the Montreal Theological College, viz, Resident Tutor. Mr. Yates, we understand, passed a most creditable College course.

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